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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 17376 140755Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05
SP-02 L-03 INR-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 TRSE-00
OMB-01 /087 W
----------005521 151325Z /43 L
R 131756Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8711
INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 17376

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EPER, SS, MR, BE
SUBJECT: SAHARAN PEACE

REF: BRUSSELS 15267

1. WE TALKED SEPTEMBER 12 WITH THE MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND THE EC, AHMEDOU OULD ABDULLAH, ON HIS RETURN FROM PARIS WHERE HE HAD MET WITH HIS UNCLE, FOREIGN MINISTER LAGHDAF. OULD ABDULLAH TOLD US THAT FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD ASSURED LAGHDAF THAT IF THE FIGHTING WITH THE POLISARIO STARTS UP AGAIN, FRANCE WILL ONCE AGAIN PROVIDE MAURITANIA WITH AIR SUPPORT AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE. OULD ABDULLAH ALSO TOLD US THAT LAGHDAF SAID THAT GISCARD TOLD HIM
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THAT FRANCE WANTED TO SEE A MEDIATOR PLAY A ROLE IN BRINGING PEACE TO THE SAHARA BUT THAT FRANCE COULD NOT PLAY THAT ROLE. OULD ABDULLAH SAID THAT GISCARD DID NOT RESPOND TO LAGHDAF'S SUGGESTION THAT SAUDI ARABIA MIGHT BE THE IDEAL COUNTRY TO PLAY SUCH A ROLE.

2. OULD ABDULLAH, WHO CHARACTERIZED MOMENTUM TOWARDS

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A SAHARAN PEACE AS "STALLED", SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER LAGHDAF TOLD HIM THAT, WHEN HE TOOK THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S JOB AFTER THE COUP, HE HAD THOUGHT THAT THE TASK OF ARRIVING AT A PEACE SETTLEMENT WOULD BE A FASTER AND EASIER ONE. OULD ABDULLAH SAID HE WILL RETURN TO NOUAKCHOTT SEPTEMBER 14 FOR TEN DAYS OF CONSULTATION WITH HIS GOVERNMENT AND WILL SEEK TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR KRYZA AND REVIEW THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE.

3. OULD ABDULLAH SAID THAT IT IS NOW VIRTUALLY SURE THAT NEXT MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON WILL BE HIS FRIEND, AMBASSADOR SIDI BOUNA, PRESENTLY MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR IN TEHRAN AND FORMER AMBASSADOR IN MADRID. OULD ABDULLAH CHARACTERIZED SIDI BOUNA AS A CLAM, RESERVED, PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT WITH A GOOD GRASP OF MAURITANIAN PROBLEMS, BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN. OLSEN

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# Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 13 sep 1978
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960
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